

PROCIB-M-22
4 November 1960

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
COMMITTEE ON PROCUREMENT OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Minutes of the Twenty-Second Meeting, 26 Oct. 1960

MEMBERS PRESENT

AIR - Maj. George E. Kudravetz
✓ - Maj. Elias Bacha
ARMY ✓ - Mr. Gerald C. Cooney
JS - Capt. Richard H. Tenney
NSA - [REDACTED] 25X9A8
STATE - Mr. William McAfee
✓ - Mr. John J. Morrow
CIA - [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

✓ AGRIC - Mr. Kirby B. Payne
AIR - Mr. Charles A. Brophy, Jr.
✓ - Mr. Donald W. Anderson
ARMY ✓ - Mr. Henry Holz
CIA - [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
✓ LC - Mr. Lewis C. Coffin
NLM - Col. Frank B. Rogers
NSF - Mr. Paul S. Feinstein
✓ STATE - Mr. Sidney Friedland
✓ USIA - Mr. L. King Quan

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1. Minutes of 21st Meeting.

The minutes of the twenty-first meeting were approved.

2. National Science Foundation Suggestion.

In the area of old business, Mr. McAfee informed the Acting Chairman that FE researchers in State had provided him with a position paper on the suggestion made at the last PROCIB meeting by Mr. Scott Adams, supported by the NSF member, relative to issuing an editorial in Science chiding the Communist Chinese for their denial of publications (cf. PROCIB-M-21, page 3, item 4). Mr. Friedland, Mr. McAfee's assistant, read the position paper to the group. The paper opposes the suggestion flatly on the grounds that a) any criticism of the current reduction in availability of Chicom publications would only prove to the Chinese the effectiveness of their control and lead perhaps to further reductions; and b) the Chinese Communists are in reality not easily "hideable", particularly in the area of literature exchange and/or availability where U.S. policy has worked to limit Chicom access to U.S. scientific and technical data. Mr. McAfee agreed to send NSF a copy of the position paper.

3. Letter from State Member.

The Acting Chairman read to the group the 14 October 1960 letter from State member William McAfee to the Chairman of PROCIB. The letter refers to the FY 61 tight budget situation in the Department and the possible negative effect this situation may have on the proposed ARA regional publications officer position for FY 62. The letter also notes the dissolution of the Office of Intelligence Resources and Coordination (IRC) in the Department, and the transfer of its mission and functions to INR/CS, the Coordination Staff of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (Copy attached PROCIB-D-37)

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4. Commendation [REDACTED]

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Enclosed herewith are excerpts of a recent letter from [REDACTED] referring to her PROCIB-endorsed commendation.

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5. Conference on Documentation.

The NSF member reported that a UNESCO Conference on Documentation will be held in Mexico City from 21 November to 4 December 1960. NSF and LC intend to send representatives.

6. Acquisitions Branch, Library Division, CIA

At this point the Acting Chairman turned the balance of the meeting over to the Acting Secretary who, as Chief of the Acquisitions Branch, spoke of the general Washington interest in Sino-Soviet Bloc publications and introduced the Branch area coordinators who reported as follows:

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I. USSR - [REDACTED]

A. Serials

The USSR subscription monopoly Soyuzpechat^o listed some 1,000 newspaper and periodical titles in its 1960 catalogue. Nearly all of these titles were obtained by the Branch with the exception of certain military or defense-type serials which were denied to certain agencies. Coordinated efforts at this end, however, made maximum use of all the issues that were received by members of PROCIB. Strangely enough, the 1961 Soyuzpechat^o catalogue reflects a complete "about face" by the Soviets in this matter, in as much as it lists six (6) military titles not previously listed as available on subscription since the curtain came down. These six titles are the following: Agitator's Handbook, Herald of the Air Fleet, Herald of the Antiair Defense, Military Medical Journal, Military Herald, and Rear Services and Supply of the Armed Forces of the USSR. It remains to be seen, however, whether or not these titles will actually be released to the U. S. in the coming year. During FY 60, ICD/FP received approximately 263,000 newspaper and 67,000 journal issues from the USSR.

B. Books

Quantitatively, the receipt of USSR books increased substantially during FY 60. There were over 37,000 books received during this period, or an average monthly receipt of 3,000 volumes. Since 1 July 1960, the monthly average has increased to 4-5,000 volumes; if this average is maintained during FY 61, the total will exceed 50,000 volumes for the year.

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C. Specific Orders

The PO at Embassy Moscow has considerable difficulty in obtaining specific orders through Moscow book dealers, even when such orders are prepared on 3x5 cards in Cyrillic. Book dealers in Moscow will generally hold such book orders for one week only; if the books requested have not been located within this token period, the book dealers insist on returning the cards to the PO. It is evident that the Soviets also dislike the prospects of having to maintain a card file for the U.S. Embassy, to say nothing of the security implications involved. There does not appear to be any simple solution to this problem.

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 II. Eastern Europe - [REDACTED]

A. Summary of FY 601. Serials

The demand for EE serial publications declined 6% in 1960 to 2,380 subscriptions compared with 2,500 in 1959. The largest decrease was in West German material. A country-by-country comparison for the period noted shows the following results:

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
Albania	45	54
Bulgaria	203	209
CSR	430	410
FRG	320	271
GDR	326	317
Hungary	337	307
Poland	431	400
Romania	227	224
Yugoslavia	187	189
	<u>2506</u>	<u>2381</u>

Indirect procurement was continued, i.e., Berlin, Moscow, Paris, Prague, and Rome continued to supply a variety of EE titles. This was particularly important for Albanian items, none of which can be obtained from Tirana. Paris is the most useful alternate source of EE publications.

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2. Books

One full-time and six part-time PO's supplied 4,825 books on selection in FY 60, an increase of some 20% over FY 59. Book selection continues at about four times the volume of specific orders, which showed a proportional increase over the same period. Of the "selection" books, about 45% were selected by Components of CIA. 35% were evaluated and disseminated by the Branch to other CIA Components on the basis of presumed interest. We estimate that at least 50% of these were utilized. The remaining 20% of selection items were discarded. Taking the number of direct selections (45%), plus 50% of those sent by the Branch (35%), we estimate that at least two-thirds of all books received on selection are utilized. Everything considered, this appears to be a satisfactory return and a favorable reflection on the activities of the publications officers.

3. Re-establishment of AmLegation Sofia

The Legation at Sofia was reopened in March 1960. Since then, Bulgarian publications have been ordered directly from Sofia. This very satisfactory development has simplified a major procurement problem here, and has relieved several posts of an extra burden. The PO, Paris, who previously procured the bulk of our Bulgarian materials, has benefited in particular.

4. Procurement of Albanian Publications

Albania remains the most inaccessible area in EE. Book orders are usually directed to Paris and serial orders to Moscow, Paris, Prague, Rome and Berlin. Many problems remain: absence of an adequate catalogue of Albanian serials, delayed receipts, missing issues, etc. This situation will only really be remedied if and when American diplomatic personnel are able to despatch published Albanian materials directly from Tirana to Washington.

B. Prospects for Calendar Year 1961

Aside from anticipated further improvements in the receipt of Bulgarian publications, no radical changes are envisioned in the EE area during 1961.

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The gradual relaxation in the circulation of publications will probably continue. The recent extension of the Berlin PO's area of responsibility to include Czechoslovakia and Poland, and the Moscow PO's area to include Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, have not yet been in effect long enough to show results. It is anticipated, however, that improvements will become evident in 1961 when, it is hoped, these officers will tour their respective areas. Finally, the volume of our requirements will probably remain fairly stable as internal agency accounting procedures have tended to discourage unnecessary and repetitious requests.

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III. Far East (Mainland China) - [REDACTED]

A. Summary of Current Situation

The procurement of Chicom publications, both newspapers and periodicals, has not improved since the export ban was imposed in October 1959. In fact, the situation appears to worsen increasingly with the passage of time. The 1960 subscription lists from satellite areas and friendly countries in Europe have been slashed drastically for 1961.

During this past year and continuing at present, greater reliance has been of necessity placed on the acquisition of Chicom publications through friendly powers with representation in Peking. However, since such acquisition is by its very nature extremely selective and limiting in quantity, extensive microfilming and other reproduction of single copy have been made by the Branch.

The Department was recently informed that foreign correspondents in Peking have been denied subscriptions to Chicom serials. Certain foreign diplomatic missions in Peking have similarly been denied subscriptions to Chicom publications by the Peking postal authorities.

Receipt of books and monographs of Chicom origin were practically nil from European posts, probably due to the language barrier. However, some English language propaganda titles were received. The outstanding exception here was the receipt of copies of the North Korean Central Yearbook from PO, Paris.

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Two significant items, i.e., the Jen-min Shou-ts'e (People's Handbook) for 1959 and a February 1960 issue of Chieh-fang Chun-pao (Liberation Army News), were received from Hong Kong. The Branch reproduced sufficient copies of these greatly desired items for distribution to all interested agencies.

B. Prospects for Calendar Year 1961

To insure even a minimal amount of Chicom publication receipts, it will be necessary to develop and increase all sources and channels, including clandestine services, and to make closer contact with international library exchanges, and with scientific and research organizations, academies of science, etc., and others in the exchange and cultural areas. Closer surveillance of Chicom target areas, such as Latin America and the Near East, for other than pure propaganda materials, will have to be instituted.

The extremely poor prospects for Chicom publications in 1961 is to a small degree counter-balanced by an increased availability of North Korean and North Vietnamese publications. Subscriptions can be placed for these publications in Japan and Hong Kong. Some North Vietnamese publications may even be obtained through a friendly source in Saigon.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of PROCIB will be on Tuesday, 22 November 1960, at 1030 hours in M Building.

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Acting Secretary

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